

## Amendments to the Specification

*On page 2, replace the paragraph at lines 20-26 with the following paragraph:*

13/ If the switching element is added in series to an electric circuit, it can be used as a resistive current limiter. Such current limiters are known from the DE 198 27 225 and the ~~DE 198 232 273~~ DE 198 32 273. Due to its short response time and the limitation of the maximal current, all other operating means, which are arranged in the electric circuit, are substantially less loaded. The switch acts as a self-triggering fuse. After the short circuit has been removed by means of conventional switches, the superconductor can recool and is available for a new switching process.